

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Application of

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Group Art Unit: not known

Application No. 10/578,857

Examiner: not known

Priority claimed from: PCT/EP2004/012656 (filed November 9, 2004) and
German application DE 103 53 185.8 (filed November 13, 2003)

Filed: May 11, 2006

For: Biocide-Free Anti-Fouling Coating Containing a Fabric Based on Basalt Fibers

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August 15, 2006

STATEMENT REGARDING
NON-ENGLISH REFERENCES CITED IN PTO-1449 FORM

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
And Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

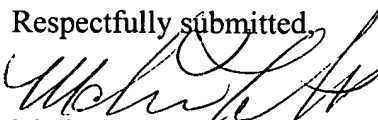
In conjunction with the Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 Form, and copies of references cited therein, we note that four of the documents cited under "Foreign Patent Documents", and supplied, are not in English : DE 100 48 671 A1; CN 1 421 351 A; FR 2 608 549 A; and DE 198 36 076.

To comply with MPEP 609, we note that three of the references – DE 100 48 671 A1; CN 1 421 351 A; and FR 2 608 549 – are cited in an International Search Report issued in international application PCT/EP2004/012656 (also cited in this PTO-1449 form and copy provided), which international application is a priority application

corresponding to the subject U.S. application. The relevance of each of these three references is described therein.

Regarding DE 198 36 076, this reference is cited in the text of our patent application at the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 and the second full paragraph on page 5. The relevance of this reference is described therein. In particular, DE-OS 198 36 076 discloses a biocide-free antifouling coating, based on two components having environmentally neutral self-cleaning properties and providing a hydrodynamic surface with minimal frictional resistance. The antifouling effect is based at the same time on the forming of a surface gel. A gelling agent as a cleaning constituent is used instead of environmentally unfriendly biocides without use of type-averse carrier substances. Preparing the gelling agent is at the same time taken over by a degradable gel matrix as fixing component, which is intermixed homogeneously with the gelling agent in a suspension. Both components are applied to the underwater surface to be protected in a single procedure, and at the same time the flat adhesion is subjected to the turbulent flow. The effect of the cleaning constituents, made available by the degradability of the fixing components constantly on the underwater surface, develops especially on contact with the slimy matter from water or fouling. The fouling matter from the water and the fouling organisms then form a gel on the antifouling coating, which however is not stable in turbulent flow. Washing off leads to a material loss in both components, by which the coating is slowly applied, so that periodic renewal is required. The material loss is at the same time all the greater, the stronger the recurrent water flows.

The criteria for MPEP 609 having been met for these non-English references, entry and consideration on the record are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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